

South King County Projects Update

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South King County traffic closures this week

Interstate 5, Federal Way

- Monday through Thursday nights, weather permitting, expect [closures of up to three lanes in each direction](#) between S. 320th and the Pierce County line. Crews will make pavement improvements as part of the I-5 widening project.

State Route 161, Federal Way

- Weekday shoulder closures, 8th Ave. to 360th, for miscellaneous work and preparing to pave the entire [SR 161 widening project](#).

State Route 167, Kent/Auburn

- Weekday shoulder closures, 15th St. NW to 15th St. SW, as crews survey and install construction signs and 13 miles of orange fencing for the [SR 167 widening project](#). The fencing marks sensitive wetlands so they aren't disturbed during construction.
- Monday through Thursday nights we'll close lanes and ramps for restriping, weather permitting. We'll close lanes on northbound and southbound SR 167, and ramps at the SR 18, 15th St. NW, and S. 180th interchanges. Visit our [construction update report](#) for details or read last Friday's [news release](#).

State Route 516, Covington/Maple Valley

- Weekdays we'll reduce SR 516 to a single lane near 208th/209th Ave. SE and flaggers will alternate traffic as crews cut trees and clear the roadside for the [SR 516 improvement project](#). Drivers should expect delays on SR 516 and should consider alternate routes or postpone their trips.

Study yields positive results for use of tolling in Washington

Between January and March 2006 the [Washington State Transportation Commission](#) conducted a study of public attitudes about managing congestion and funding badly needed improvements to roads and bridges in the state.

Through this study, the commission members found that:

- Most citizens are aware of how transportation projects in the state are funded but not all of them know that [gas tax money can be used only for transportation](#).
- The gas tax is generally regarded as a fair way to pay for transportation system improvements and maintenance.
- Citizens believe that additional transportation funds are needed, but they are not convinced that the state spends the gas tax efficiently.
- If more funds are indeed needed, the public prefers using tolls to increasing the gas tax.
- Tolls are generally seen as fair because the users who benefit the most pay.
- An outdated picture of tolling systems (stopping at a toll booth to drop coins) is hobbling acceptance of using tolls in spite of the fact that most people have heard about [non-stop electronic toll collection systems](#) in use throughout the United States and the world.

Read more about the [study](#) on the Transportation Commission's Web page.

Highway advisory radio updates

Tune your radio to 1520 AM to hear a new project update each week on I-5 in Federal Way. Questions or comments? E-mail [Laura Johnson](#).

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